I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Assignment of lands

Assignment of lands free of assessment to the depressed classes.

* 1667 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: With reference to the answer to question No. 1012 answered on 28th January 1929, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the question of giving the lands free of assessment to the depressed classes till they become productive?

A.—The question is under the consideration of the Government as far as the South Kanara district is concerned.

Inland waterways

Opening of the Narsapur Steam ferry.

* 1668 Q.—Mr. J. Bheemayya: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the authority and the necessity under which the President, District Board, addressed the Government to declare a line of navigation under section 4 of the Canals and Public Ferries Act (II of 1890);

(b) whether the Government are not aware of the fact that there are independent ferries separately auctioned every year by the District Board at Narsapur (Madhavayapalem), Yenugavanilanka and at Chinchinada within the limits of Narsapur Steam ferry;

(c) the special reasons for the declaration of the Narsapur Steam ferry while there are three independent separate ferries intervening the same; and

(d) whether there is any other ferry in the Presidency which corresponds to the Steam ferry at Narsapur?

A.—(a) In view of the recent High Court's decision declaring *ultra vires* the Notification of 1895 regarding the Narsapur Steam ferry, the President, District Board, West Godavari, has only suggested that the Vasishta Godavari river below the anicut may be declared a line of navigation under the Canals and Public Ferries Act.

(b) The Government are aware of the existence of the three ferries mentioned.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (b) of question No. 1627.

(d) So far as the Government are aware there is no other ferry in the Presidency similar to the Steam ferry at Narsapur.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju:—"With reference to clause (a) of the answer, may I know whether Government are contemplating to accept the suggestion of the District Board President, West Godavari, mentioned therein?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks:—"What should be done is under consideration; whether we will be able to adopt that suggestion or something else I cannot say at present."

11th March 1929]

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know whether Government will give an opportunity to the public to make their representations also in the matter before they come to a final decision ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" That will be considered, Sir.".

Revenue from and expenditure on the Buckingham canal.

* 1669 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total capital expenditure on the Buckingham canal ;

(b) the annual revenue in each year from the time the canal was opened ;

(c) the annual expenditure during the same period ;

(d) the loss or gain in each year ; and

(e) the percentage of profits, if any, in each year from 1900 to 1928 ?

A.—(a) The total capital outlay to the end of 1927–28 was Rs. 90,57,596 inclusive of indirect charges.

(b), (c) & (d) Figures only from 1916–17 are readily available. They are given below :—

		Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loss.
		LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.
1916–17	...	0·67	1·24	0·57
1917–18	...	0·79	1·42	0·63
1918–19	...	0·87	1·97	1·10
1919–20	...	0·81	2·25	1·44
1920–21	...	0·77	2·25	1·48
1921–22	...	0·79	2·46	1·67
1922–23	...	0·74	2·70	1·96
1923–24	...	0·79	2·96	2·17
1924–25	...	0·80	3·32	2·52
1925–26	...	0·78	3·37	2·59
1926–27	...	0·75	3·25	2·50
1927–28	...	0·75	3·04	2·29

(e) There are no profits.

Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" May I know whether the hon. Member intends to close the canal seeing that there are losses year after year ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" From previous discussions it was understood that the House was strongly in favour of the continuance of the canal and wanted money to be spent on its improvement."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" May I know, in view of the losses, whether the Government have any proposal to increase the fees so as to make the canal self-supporting ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Yes, Sir ; I think in reply to questions that have been asked, the Government announced that they propose to increase the fees gradually."